

In The Mode

The Transportation Quiz



Missouri Aviation

then moves to the vertical columns that support the structure and carry the vehicle weight to the ground. This is called the load-flow path, and, as Callahan explains, anything that disrupts it can cause a bridge to collapse.

“It’s not that what we do is more important than other emergency-type situations,” Callahan says. “It’s just that the work we do is so much more dramatic. Seeing a bridge column split in two really leaves an imprint in your mind.”

Call To Action

When an emergency pops up, MoDOT bridge-repair crews jump to action. Maintenance staff in the district where the accident occurs contact the state Bridge Maintenance engineer who works with the bridge-repair general superintendent to organize a team of inspectors to investigate the emergency within a few hours after the incident. If district staff is available, they inspect the bridge to determine if it’s safe for travel. The inspectors decide whether to close the bridge or keep it open to traffic. At the same time, the repair crew is dispatched from MoDOT General Headquarters to get to the scene as fast as possible to determine what repairs are needed.

“People could be seriously injured, so we’re always going to lean toward the conservative side when we’re deciding whether or not to close a bridge,” Callahan says. “Although we hate to inconvenience anyone, we’d rather do that than risk anyone’s life.”

Crew supervisors obtain the original plans for the bridge for specifics regarding beam, column and joint sizes, to ensure the correct replacement parts can be ordered or made from in-stock materials. MoDOT keeps

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Approximately 6,200 aircraft and 11,200 pilots are registered in Missouri. MoDOT plays an important role in supporting these pilots and the aviation facilities they depend upon.

Test your knowledge of some of the ways MoDOT helps manage Missouri’s friendly skies.

1 How many new airports have been built in Missouri since 1990?

- a. One (Lewis County)
- b. Two (Sullivan, Warsaw)
- c. Three (Bolivar, Clay County, Linn County)
- d. All of the above (6 new airports)

2 How does MoDOT fund aviation programs?

- a. General Revenue
- b. Highway funding sources
- c. State Aviation Trust Fund
- d. Motor-vehicle sales tax

3 Which public-use airport is owned by the State of Missouri?

- a. Skyhaven Airport in Warrensburg
- b. Linn Airport
- c. Lee C. Fine Airport in Lake Ozark
- d. All of the above

4 What is Missouri’s busiest general-aviation airport?

- a. Jefferson City Memorial Airport
- b. Spirit of St. Louis Airport
- c. Washington Memorial Airport
- d. Bolivar Municipal Airport

5 Which of the following is not a MoDOT aviation-safety program?

- a. Turf Runway Marker Program
- b. Automated Weather Observation System Program
- c. Baggage Screening Program
- d. Taxiway Reflector Program

6 Missouri’s state role in aviation began in 1945 with which agency?

- a. Department of Transportation
- b. Highway Department
- c. Department of Resources and Development
- d. Federal Aviation Authority

7 From 1942-1960 the airport in Malden, Mo., was used as:

- a. an automobile race track
- b. a U.S. Air Force base
- c. a parking lot
- d. a landing strip for test pilots

8 How many runways in Missouri are longer than 5,000 feet?

- a. 25
- b. 20
- c. 50
- d. 12

9 How many of Missouri’s approximately 500 aviation facilities are publicly owned?

- a. 437
- b. 200
- c. 260
- d. 115

10 How many people are employed in Missouri’s aviation industry?

- a. 1,600
- b. 16,000
- c. 22,500
- d. 50,000

Answers: 1 – d; 2 – c; 3 – d; 4 – b; 5 – c; 6 – c; 7 – b; 8 – a; 9 – d; 10 – b.

Sources: *Talkin’ Transportation*; www.modot.org

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